

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 USSS-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 CU-02 SIL-01 LAB-01 EB-04 COME-00 INRE-00 /066 W

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P 131025Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6290

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJ: GENERAL STRIKE ON WEST BANK PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL

1. GENERAL STRIKE ON WEST BANK CALLED FOR BY PLO ON DAY OF UNGA PALESTINE DEBATE FAILED TO MATERIALIZE IN EAST JERUSALEM AND RAMALLAH, BUT IS SAID TO BE 100 PERCENT EFFECTIVE IN NABLUS DESPITE STRONG WARNINGS FROM GOI MILITARY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES.

2. STRIKE ORIGINALLY CALLED FOR BY PLO IN "VOICE OF PALESTINE" BROADCASTS FROM CAIRO AND RUMORED FOR SEVERAL DAYS PROMPTED GOI POLICE AUTHORITIES LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING TO VISIT AND INDIVIDUALLY WARN EAST JERUSALEM SHOPKEEPERS AGAINST STRIKING. EARLY MORNING SURVEY OF ARAB JERUSALEM REVEALED GREAT MAJORITY OF SHOPS OPENED BY TEN O'CLOCK. BUSINESSES IN RAMALLAH ALSO REPORTEDLY OPEN AS USUAL.

3. ACCORDING TO A CONTACT IN NABLUS, THAT CITY IS BY CONTRAST
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TOTALLY SHUT DOWN BY STRIKE. (MARKET AREA COMPRISING ONE

QUARTER OF BUSINESSES HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY CLOSED BY GOI MILITARY AUTHORITIES AFTER SHOOTING OF ISRAELI CITIZEN NOV 9.) CONTACT CLAIMS SCHOOLS SHUT DOWN AND ALL BUSINESSES CLOSED DESPITE GOI ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE THEM TO OPEN. AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY MEETING WITH MAYOR IN ATTEMPT TO BREAK WHAT ANOTHER SOURCE HAS DESCRIBED TO US AS MOST EFFECTIVE STRIKE IN HISTORY OF LABLUS. LATTER SOURCE ALSO STATES GOI MILITARY AUTHORITIES CLASHING WITH STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS. SOURCE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD ISRAELI ACTION WAS HARSHTEST OF ITS KIND TO DATE ON WEST BANK.

4. COMMENT: NUMBER OF ARABS IN EAST JERUSALEM TOLD US THEY REFRAINED FROM STRIKING OUT OF FEAR OF ISRAELIS REPRISALS. SOME WERE DOUBTLESSLY TORN BETWEEN FEAR OF PLO AND OF ISRAELIS, BUT AS ONE OBSERVER PUT IT ISRAELI GUNS ARE CLOSER THAN THOSE OF PLO. ISRAELI AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN CONSIDERABLE PAINS IN LAST FEW DAYS (AND IN MORE GENERAL WAY SINCE RABAT SUMMIT) TO ENCOURAGE THIS REACTION. NABLUS, TRADITIONALLY A POLITICAL HOTSPOT, HAS BEEN PROBLEM AREA FOR ISRAELIS EVER SINCE 1967. HARSH REPRISALS THERE, IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, COULD LEAD TO SECONDARY DISTURBANCES THERE AND ELSEWHERE ON WEST BANK. DAY

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